

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 02372 251859Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T PARIS 02372

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, CA, FR, SO, ET
SUBJ: HORN OF AFRICA: INCLUSION OF CANADA IN FUTURE
CONSULTATIONS

REF: USUN 203

1. SINCE THE INCLUSION OF CANADA IN FUTURE HORN
CONSULTATIONS MAKES SUCH GOOD SENSE FROM THE STAND-
POINT OF POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, IT IS WITH
RELUCTANCE THAT WE DEMUR. WE KNOW THAT THE FRENCH
WERE DISPLEASED AT THE EXPANSION OF THE THERETOFORE
HIGHLY SECRET FOUR POWER TALKS TO INCLUDE THE ITALIANS.
HAVING BEEN PRESENTED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI THEY SEEM
TO HAVE ACCEPTED IT; AFTER ALL, ITALY IS A FORMER
REGIONAL COLONIAL POWER WITH CONSIDERABLE ASSETS AND
EXPERIENCE IN THE AREA. THEY MAY, NONE THE LESS,
PREFER A REVERSION TO THE UNPUBLICIZED FOUR POWER
TALKS, THE GENESIS OF WHICH IS UNRELATED TO GERMANY'S
SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. (THE FRENCH HOLD LENGTHY
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ANNUAL BILATERAL AFRICAN CONSULTATIONS WITH BOTH THE
BRITISH AND GERMANS.)

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH, WHO HAVE A TRADITIONAL
DISTASTE FOR APPEARING TO COMPROMISE THEIR "INDEPEND-
ENT" FOREIGN POLICY BY COORDINATION WITH NATO ALLIES
ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD,

WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY TO THE SUGGESTION THAT THE CANADIANS BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE HORN CONSULTATIONS. THEY MAY FEEL THAT THEY CANNOT OPPOSE THE INCLUSION OF THE CANADIANS, BUT WE FEAR THAT WE RISK LOSING THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR CONSULTATIONS AND THAT THEY MIGHT DOWNGRADE THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION.

3. WE CONCUR THAT IT IS DESIRABLE TO BRIEF THE CANADIANS ON THE RESULTS OF HORN CONSULTATIONS AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY TALKS AT THE UN DIRECTLY RELATED TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION.
GAMMON

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NNN

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